Provident Fund.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I beg to move "*That a Provident Fund for the benefit of these inferior servants be opened into which every such servant of Government drawing a maximum salary of Rs. 15 be compelled to pay annas 8 per mensem and the Government to contribute an equal sum to the same fund as suggested on page 18 of the report of the Special Finance Committee.*"

This is a proposition for a Provident Fund, and I may club along with it the other proposition also.

Deputy President.—Only one by one.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to second it.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I support it. But I have got one resolution identical with this one and I withdraw it.

(*Hence the following resolution was considered withdrawn:*)—

"*This Council recommends to the Government that contribution to the Provident Fund be made compulsory in the case of all Government officers and menials, and that a scheme of State Life Insurance be also introduced*".)

The resolution of Mr. Salem was put and agreed to.

Insurance Fund.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I beg to move "*that an Insurance Fund be also started by the Government for the benefit of these inferior servants drawing a maximum sum of Rs. 15 a month for the purpose of providing for their families in case of premature death of such servants, and that every such servant of Government be compelled to pay annas eight a month towards such insurance fund per mensem and that a sum of Rs. 200 be paid to such servants on the attainment of their 55th year of age or to their heirs and successors in case of death, and the fund be called 'The Cochin Public Servants Family Insurance Fund*".

I would say only two words. We have got roughly about 3,000 inferior servants drawing about Rs. 15 and less. If they give 8 annas, it will bring into the coffers of the Government 1,500 rupees every month, or Rs. 18,000 a year. The death rate between the ages of 25 and 55 according to the last census is only 7 per thousand. If 21 people die in the year, this sum that is contributed by these people would be ample to form a fund of mutual benefit to them. So that, a man dying would have the consolation that his poor family will get Rs. 200 from this Rs. 1,500 in the month or Rs. 18,000 in the year. That fund should be earmarked and made to accumulate and kept in the custody of the Government to meet such contingencies. This will be self-supporting. The tax-payer's money would not go at all. There will be ample provision for them for a rainy day. With these words, I commend this resolution.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I second that, Sir.

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Deputy President.—Any opposition to it?

The question was put and agreed to.

Secretary to the Council.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I beg to move "*that the Council Secretariat be absolutely separate from the present Huzur Secretariat and that the salary attached to the office of the Secretary be not less than Rs. 200.*"

Deputy President.—Anybody to second it?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I would say one word in support of it. It is abundantly clear that, with the introduction of responsible Government in Cochin, which is impending and which is soon to come, for which even the Special Finance Committee Members have made strong recommendations for the creation of an Executive Council responsible to the Legislature, the work of the Council will become more and more urgent, arduous and heavy. In time to come, it is absolutely necessary that this self-governing institution, the pivot on which the whole Administration should turn, should not be within the clutches of the Bureaucracy while in its infant stage. To put it within the Secretariat building and the Secretary to the Diwan to control the administration of this House would be absolutely not conducive to the full development of this House. Therefore, this Secretariat should be absolutely separate and the Secretary to the Council should be the proper person to control it under the President. I would have preferred to pay him Rs. 250, but in deference to the wishes of my Party I have made it Rs. 200.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Do you want a full-timed officer?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then he should be paid much more. As it is not less than Rs. 200.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Is it Rs. 200 or Rs. 250?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It must be not less than Rs. 200. With these few words, I commend this proposition.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—I second it.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—There are a number of propositions in that connection. All these may be put.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—So long as the present Secretary is here, I don't want my amendment to be applicable to him. After that, it must be a full-timed officer.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—And not a Member.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—He must be a full-timed officer, and he must be a Law Graduate.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I accept the amendment that the Secretary should be a full-timed officer and a Law Graduate. That is, after the time of the present Secretary.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I would also add a rider that he should not be a Member. It is not the practice in any Legis-

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